

## **Medical Humanities Seminar: Bioethics at the Movies**

Spring 2017  
T 1:00-4:00

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Movies often provide a rich context in which to think about moral issues that go far beyond the sketchy scenarios that are often used to think about ethical values and principles in both philosophy and medicine. In this course, we will use movies to look more deeply at some important ethical issues related to medicine.

Each week we will meet to screen a movie that raises some interesting ethical questions, and we will then discuss those issues and try to formulate a position on them as class, where possible. After class, I will ask you to write a short reaction, outlining your view of what the principal issue at stake and how we should handle it.

### **Requirements**

1. *Participation.* This is a seminar. I will not lecture. I expect each of you to come to class prepared to discuss the movies and to ask questions both of me and of the other participants in the seminar.

2. *Reaction papers.* After each class, you will write on what you think are the most important ethical issues raised in the movie (whether we discussed them or not) and how you think we should think about that issue. These papers should be short: 1-2 pages, double-spaced. They will be due each Friday at 5 p.m. Email them to me at [richard.dees@rochester.edu](mailto:richard.dees@rochester.edu).

3. *Reflective exercise.* After the last class, you should do the reflective exercise required of all students in medical humanities seminars. Take a photo of something that reminds you of moment in our seminar, a part of our discussion, a scene in a movie, or anything. The requirement is that the image must *not* be taken in any hospital, medical school, or clinical setting; it must be taken in your “off” hours, in your own life. Then write no more than 100 about what you learned about yourself—your ideas, feelings, values, assumptions about the “moment” - maybe it was a topic, a reading, a comment, a discussion in the seminar. When you have finished, post them to Blackboard by February 21.

### **Class schedule**

Note: We will meet every class for three hours, from 1:00-4:00, so that we have time to watch and discuss the movies.

Jan 3. “Groundhog Day.” 2-7530.

Jan 10. "My Sister's Keeper." 2-7530.

Jan 17. "Limitless." 2-7530.

Jan 24. "Contagion." 2-7530.

Jan 31. "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg." 2-7530.

Feb 7. "The Constant Gardener." 2-7544. (Note room change)

Feb 14. "Never Let Me Go." 2-7530.